

WIGAN ATHLETIC



Official Programme

20p

Saturday, 1st September, 1979 — Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR
WIGAN ATHLETIC
- v -
PORTSMOUTH

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Club Directory

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TEAM MANAGER:
Mr. I.M. McNeill.

COMMERCIAL MANAGER:
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HON. MEDICAL OFFICERS:
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Match Ball Donors

The Wigan Athletic Football Club wishes to thank all those who have donated match balls. Any individual or organisation wishing to join the scheme is asked to contact the Commercial Manager, Springfield Park, Wigan. (Telephone: Wigan 43067)

Our front page pic shows Micky Moore heading Wigan's first home league goal of the season - v. Huddersfield Town. (Photo by courtesy of "Evening Post and Chronicle".

Personally Speaking

by Ian McNeill



Good Afternoon All,
A WARM WELCOME to Frank Burrows and his Portsmouth side who have really set the heather on fire with their opening three games. They have recorded three wins, twelve goals for, one against and six points. It certainly could not have been better, so we know we have a game on our hands this afternoon.

Since Last Week.

Since my last programme notes we have played two matches, Huddersfield home, Stockport away, and although we were disappointed in our defeat by Huddersfield, I feel the players answered their critics in the best possible way with a first class win over Stockport. Our first half display was top-drawer stuff and I would settle for that kind of performance in all our future matches.

Once again our away support was tremendous. We must have had close on 1,500 supporters out of a 4,000 gate.

Youth Squad.

On Monday evening our Youth side start out on the trail for the F.A. Youth Cup with an away fixture at Rhyl. As this will be our first venture I am hoping we can get off to a good start. A Youth Policy has got to be the answer to problems facing a club such as ours and, although I know it will take time, we already have a fair nucleus of players in whom I have a certain amount of confidence for the future.

Last Saturday our Youth side was defeated 2-1 by Manchester United, but there was not an ounce of difference in the quality, and remember United have probably the best scouting system in the country.

Crowd Behaviour.

I would like to pay tribute to our supporters of last year who showed admirable restraint in not being drawn into confrontations with opposing fans. I am sincerely hoping we can continue in the same vein this year. I would also hope you will try as hard as possible to make your chants as funny and witty as possible without being obscene. We would hope not to offend families who bring their youngsters to the matches. Let us teach them the correct way to support Latics.

Enjoy today's match.

Ian McNeill

WELCOME TO



PORTSMOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB 1979/80 — (Left to Right) **Back Row:** Keith James, Colin Garwood, Archie Styles, Steve Bryant, Terry Brisley, Peter Tindal. **Middle Row:** Peter Ellis, Derek Showers, Trevor Roberts, Alan Knight, Peter Mellor, Steve Osgood, Steve Aizlewood, Alan Rogers, Graham Marriner. **Front Row:** Steve Davey, Leigh Barnard, John Lathan, Gordon Neave (Coach), Stan Harland (Chief Scout), Frank Burrows (Manager), Jack Smith (Youth Team Manager), John McLaughlin, Jeff Hemmerman, Joe Laidlaw, Keith Viney.



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PORTSMOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

ONE IS very tempted to misquote and pose the question "What is a great club (like Portsmouth) doing in a league like this (Fourth Division)?" Certainly, in terms of historic achievement, current spectator support and future potential, Portsmouth are head and shoulders above their fellow-clubs in the Fourth Division.

It is still a matter of much conjecture among Wigan fans as to why Portsmouth, after for so long looking promotion certainties, failed last season to step up into the Third Division. If we, in Wigan, after last year's faltering start, were disappointed at not moving up, imagine how those with the interests of proud Pompey at heart felt as they saw the prospects of a return to the top flight slowly recede.

It says much for the character of the Portsmouth club that, after the bitterness of disappointment, it should take a deep breath, invest much of the capital from its frequent ten thousand plus gates, and set out again in quest of Third Division Soccer.

John McLaughlin (ex-Swindon Town), Terry Brisley (ex-Charlton Athletic), Steve Aizlewood (ex-Swindon Town), Joe Laidlaw (ex-Doncaster Rovers and Carlisle United), Alan Rogers (ex-Plymouth), and Archie Styles (ex-Peterborough United, Birmingham City and Everton) swell the ranks of experienced professionalism now available to manager Frank Burrows, who succeeded the evergreen Jimmy Dickinson, M.B.E. The acquisition of these seasoned players, plus the highly-skilled talent still

available to Pompey from last season, make the men from Fratton Park almost every forecaster's favourite for promotion this time around.

No comment about our visitors would be complete without reference to the magnificent support which passes through the gates of Fratton Park, week in, week out, throughout the season. Not only does this support pass through their own turnstiles, but many, many Pompey fanatics travel the length and breadth of England cheering on their favourites. To those of you who have made the long journey to Wigan, we wish an especially warm welcome. May you have a good day, a safe journey home, and thank you for supporting today's game.

Last year, we were involved in two tremendously competitive games with Portsmouth, losing by the odd goal at Fratton Park in September, but triumphing in the return fixture at Wigan by two goals to nil, as we mounted our promotion challenge in the depths of winter. If today's game lives up to the high standard set by the previous encounters, the spectators, here at Springfield Park, will be very privileged indeed.

Welcome then to Portsmouth Football Club, and, if one can be permitted to end, as one began, with a misquote, "We come to praise, Pompey, not to bury them!!" In footballing terms, Portsmouth Football Club can fairly be described as the most noble of institutions likely to grace us with its presence in Season 1979-1980.

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Commercial Chatter

RADIO ELECTRICAL Mechanic
Paul Williams was amply rewarded for his trouble taken to support the Athletic at Darlington recently. Paul, who often hitch-hikes from his base at H.M.S. Warrior (Middlesex) to cheer on his favourite team, travelled on the Soccer Charter Train, and, while on the train, purchased a lottery ticket from super salesman Brian Sabin. He was taken aback for words when his father telephoned him last weekend, only hours after returning to duty following the game at Stockport, to let him know that his ticket had been drawn out of the box as the £1,000 Jackpot Winner.

It is hoped that Paul will be present at today's game to receive his cheque from Club Chairman, Mr. Arthur Horrocks.

R.E.M. Williams began his naval career at H.M.S. Raleigh (Plymouth), before serving for one and a half years at sea on H.M.S. Sheffield. He now serves at an inland N.A.T.O. Communications Base.

Paul has travelled thousands of miles, often in miserable weather, to support Wigan Athletic. Perhaps, he will make the return journey to Middlesex tonight by first-class transport, after enjoying a few pints in celebration of his good fortune!!

We are pleased to draw attention to the fact that today's game is being sponsored by Smiths' Bookshop of Mesnes Street, Wigan. Mr. Sydney Smith (an ex-Director of the Club) and his son Trevor have long been known as staunch supporters of the Athletic cause and they had no hesitation in accepting the invitation to sponsor the Portsmouth fixture. It is not without reason that the Smiths were approached to sell match day programmes from their rapidly expanding premises in Mesnes Street, and, as ever, the old firm is making a good job of it. Whatever your requirements in the stationery, books, records and magazines fields, you can rely on Smiths for first-class service. Many thanks, gentlemen, for your support.

We are equally pleased to express our appreciation to Mr. Geoffrey M. Chapman, the

manager of the Bocket Arms Hotel, Mesnes Road, Wigan, (Telephone Wigan 46283) for the kind donation of today's match ball. Mr. Chapman has done the club many favours in the past, and, of late, his friendly hotel has provided pre-match and post-match facilities for clubs visiting Springfield Park, not to mention a variety of functions, large and small, connected with the everyday business of the Wigan Athletic Football Club. Thank you, sir, for your support.

We must express our regret that Mr. Derek Asson of D.A. Builders, who sponsored the Huddersfield game, has recently been admitted to Withington Hospital, Manchester, following a serious accident at work. Please accept our sincere good wishes for a speedy recovery, Derek, and keep smiling through your present troubles.

To all those present at today's game, enjoy yourselves and get behind the players with the right kind of vocal support.

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(Commercial Manager)

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Lancashire League Scene

by Fred Eyre

THE INJURY jinx which has hit the first team, with cartilage problems for goalkeepers John Brown and Bob Ward and a broken leg for full back John Curtis has spread to the reserve team before the season has even started.

During the close season our popular left full back Pop Freeman who had such a successful season last term broke his leg whilst representing Great Britain in a tournament in Germany and will be out of action for a number of weeks. Whilst in one of our pre-season "friendly" games, promising midfield player Steve Yates suffered a similar fate and later in the game he was joined in the local hospital by utility player Brian Cunliffe who had to have a nasty gash in his leg stitched. Brian will now be side-lined for a couple of weeks.

In spite of these setbacks,

however, we managed to get off to a flying start with a 3-2 home win against Altrincham. Tony Quinn showed he had not lost his goal scoring touch of last season, with two opportunist goals and a neat individual effort from Alan Crompton completed the scoring for Wigan.

The 'A' team also started on a good note with a 2-2 draw against Formby Reserves, and David Crompton was pleased with the overall performance. The 'A' team goals came from apprentice professional Davie Glenn, who showed the composure of a veteran as he raced from the half way line to calmly walk the ball round the keeper and slot in the first of, hopefully, many goals for the club. The second was an equally fine individual effort from Mick Quinn.

So, all in all, a very pleasing first week in the Lancashire Leagues for Wigan Athletic.

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Player Profile

Photograph by courtesy of "The Wigan Reporter"



JOHN CURTIS (Defender)

JOHN WAS BORN in Poulton-le-Fylde and received his education in the Fylde area. At Hodgson Secondary School he established a reputation as an all-round sportsman. Not only did John represent Blackpool and Lancashire Schools at soccer, he also gained recognition at Athletics. As English Schools' Under-15's Hurdle Champion he held the National Under-15's Record in the event.

Joining Blackpool from school in July 1970, John graduated through the 'A' team and Reserves, before making his debut at Orient in September 1973. He remembers that game well, since Blackpool were winning 2-0 at half time, but early thoughts that it was easier than playing in the reserves were soon dispelled as Orient fought back to gain a 3-2 win. John kept his place in the Seasiders line-up for twenty-five consecutive games. Eventually he was to make 122 senior appearances for the club.

In July 1977, John moved on to Blackburn Rovers, but never really settled at Ewood Park. In fact, John only played eighteen first team games in eighteen months.

Towards the end of last season, John got the chance to join Wigan Athletic on loan. Once he had met Ian McNeill and discovered how keen everyone was to progress and make the public sit up and take notice, John Curtis did not hesitate in signing for the Wigan club. Promotion was not to be, but, in nine games for the club, John proved himself a mobile, positive and constructive player and was readily accepted by the fans.

Unfortunately, with 149 league appearances behind him, John is going to have to wait a little longer before passing the 150 mark. An unfortunate training accident, resulting in a broken leg, is destined to keep the popular newcomer on the sidelines for a little while yet. Everyone at the club, and the fans on the terraces, look forward to seeing a fit John Curtis pushing hard again for a first team place in the very near future.

RESERVE RESULTS FOR YOUR RECORDS

Lancashire League Division 1

Monday, 20th August, 1979

Reserves 3 — Altrincham Reserves 2

Wigan Scorers — A. Quinn (2), Crompton

Friday, 24th August, 1979

Reserves 2 — Stockport County 'A' 2

Wigan Scorers — Jones, Crompton

Lancashire League Division 2

Saturday, 18th August, 1979

'A' Team 2 — Formby Reserves 2

'A' Team Scorers — Glenn, M. Quinn

Saturday, 25th August, 1979

'A' Team 1 — Manchester United 'B' 2

'A' Team Scorer — M. Quinn

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STRIKE



ABOVE
Micky Moore puts every ounce of effort and concentration into his left foot shot at goal.

TOP RIGHT
Ian Purdie looks balanced and alert as the opposing goal-keeper attempts to claw the ball to safety.



BOTTOM RIGHT
Peter Houghton presses forward looking for the half-chance to add to his growing goal tally.

Photographs by courtesy of "The Wigan Observer"

Springfield Spotlight

FORCE



NEW AND REBUILT

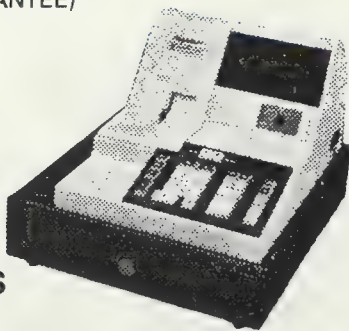
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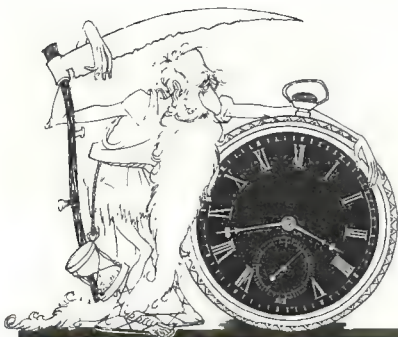
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Down Memory Lane

by Harold Ashurst

THE MONTH of September 1955 is the period in time spotlighted today, because it has special connections with our visitors from Portsmouth.

It was at that time they signed one of Wigan Athletic's best-ever non-league players, right winger Harry Penk.

A report in the "Wigan Observer" early that month stated that Portsmouth, then a great first division club, had offered £2,500 for the 20 year old winger, a tremendous amount of money in those days.

Harry was reported to be thinking the move over and said at the time that he preferred a move to a Lancashire Club. The fee, however, had been agreed by the two clubs concerned and there was the promise of more money from Portsmouth after Penk had played a

number of first team games.

Harry, who lived at Orrell Post, and was training to be a decorator, eventually signed for the Fratton Park club and was a big success. He still lives in Southampton and was a spectator at last year's match at Portsmouth.

In what was to be one of his last matches for Wigan, on September 5th, 1955, Harry scored a goal in his side's 4-1 win over Skelmersdale United in the first round of the Liverpool Senior Non-League Cup. Other goals came from Vincent, Beattie and Banks, while Williams replied for Skelmersdale.

The Wigan team was: Appleton, Newbury, Scott, Lynn, Hitchen, Bramwell, Penk, Beattie, Vincent, Davies, Banks.

The attendance was 4,114 and the gate receipts were £221.

LATICS AWAY

FOR THOSE of our fans making the long trek to Bournemouth on Saturday, 8th September, we would advise a route via the M6 and M5 to the outskirts of Cheltenham. Leave the M5 at Exit 11 signposted A40 to Gloucester. Before actually entering Gloucester join A417 Ring Road through Barnwood and signposted to Cirencester

and Swindon. South of Swindon join A345 to Marlborough and Salisbury. From Salisbury the A338 leads to Ringwood and Bournemouth. At roundabout junction with A3060 take second exit. At next roundabout take first exit into Kings Park Drive, then turn left into Thistlebarrow Road for A.F.C. Bournemouth. The Bournemouth ground is known as Dean Court.

Enjoy your day and let our boys know you are there!!

Facts and Figures

Home fixtures in capitals.
Wigan scores first.

Player scoring in bold.
† Player substituted.

² Figure indicates no. of goals scored by player.
* In result column indicates opponents own goal.

DATE	FIXTURE	F	A	ATT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Aug 11	Stockport FLC1	1-2	6,004	R Ward	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	Brownbill	Purdie	Unquhart	
Aug 15	STOCKPORT FLC1	0-0	7,591	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Purdie	Moore	
Aug 18	Darlington	2-2	2,063	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan ¹	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie ¹	David	
Aug 22	HUDDERSFIELD	1-2	6,927	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore ¹	Purdie	Brownbill	
Aug 25	Stockport County	2-1	3,837	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore ¹	David	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	Moore	Purdie	N Ward	
Sep 1	PORTSMOUTH															
Sep 8	Bournemouth															
Sep 15	YORK CITY															
Sep 19	HARTLEPOOL															
Sep 22	Hereford United															
Sep 29	BRADFORD CITY															
Oct 2	Hartlepool United															
Oct 6	TORQUAY UNITED															
Oct 9	Huddersfield Town															
Oct 13	Doncaster Rovers															
Oct 20	LINCOLN CITY															
Oct 24	ROCHDALE															
Oct 27	Newport County															
Nov 3	DARLINGTON															
Nov 6	Rochdale															
Nov 9	Tranmere Rovers															
Nov 17	SCUNTHORPE															
Nov 24	F.A. Cup 1															
Dec 1	NORTHAMPTON															
Dec 8	Walsall															
Dec 15	F.A. Cup 2															
Dec 21	CREWE															
Dec 26	Peterborough															
Dec 29	STOCKPORT															
Jan 1	PORT VALE															
Jan 5	Halifax Town															
Jan 12	Portsmouth															
Jan 19	BOURNEMOUTH															
Jan 26	ALDERSHOT															
Feb 2	York City															
Feb 9	HEREFORD UNITED															
Feb 16	Bradford City															
Feb 23	DONCASTER															
Feb 29	Lincoln City															
Mar 8	NEWPORT COUNTY															
Mar 14	Torquay United															
Mar 22	TRANMERE															
Mar 29	Scunthorpe United															
Apr 4	Crewe Alexandra															
Apr 5	PETERBOROUGH															
Apr 7	Port Vale															
Apr 12	HALIFAX TOWN															
Apr 19	Northampton Town															
Apr 26	WALSALL															
May 3	Aldershot															

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Fourth Division Focus

by Chris Gill



ALTHOUGH most teams have played only three games to date, just four sides start this afternoon's Fourth Division programme with one hundred per cent records.

Today's visitors Portsmouth, who, along with Norwich City, share the distinction of being the only two clubs to take their league goal-scoring efforts into double figures, have conceded only one goal in keeping their record intact.

Portsmouth, who were pre-season "big spenders", obviously see the road clear for a return to the Third Division, and they started off in splendid style, particularly last week, when they hit bottom side Scunthorpe for six!

What of the other pacemakers? Well, just like Portsmouth, Bradford City, Huddersfield Town and Hereford United are all away today, having played two of their first three games at home. If, therefore, the law of Football League averages are anything to go by, at forty tonight, we should have one clear leader and at least half a dozen other happy managers pleased to find their side in joint second place.

Yes, with all respect to the front runners

and Bournemouth, who barely ever reach the dizzy heights of fifth position, early league tables are something of a farce. There's a long, long way to go . . . 3,870 minutes of football to be precise!

Anyway, the soccer world is still waiting to see if Crewe Alexandra can pull off the scoop of the season by "borrowing" former Arsenal and England star Alan Hudson, currently playing out the American season.

While Crewe boss Tony Waddington waits for a decision, Stockport County Manager, Mike Summerbee, is rueing the loss of striker Les Bradd, who has just had a cartilage operation. While on the subject of Stockport, they currently find themselves top of the most unenviable league table . . . bookings. Amazingly their players have seen eleven yellow cards since the new season started.

On a crowd note, it seems that if early trends are continued today's teams seem set to head the attendance table. Pompey so far boast the only five figure gates, including 12,234 for their last home game, while Wigan's only league home game to date attracted nearly 7,000 spectators.

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Inside Information by I. Spy

WE ARE PLEASED to announce that the flag on the pole near the Supporters' Club is there to stay. In fact, after the trouble it took getting the flag pole erected and the flag flying, we doubt if anyone would dare to withdraw the facility.

Not only was Club Secretary Derek Welsby involved in high level discussions with a local Fire Officer as to how to get the pole down, but, once painted, the Fire Brigade paid a courtesy call to help reerect the pole. Unfortunately, it was an even harder task putting the pole back up again than it had been taking it down. Exit the Fire Brigade for an emergency call, leaving Derek to bring plan two into play. Enter the intrepid Garage Hands of H.L. Gorner, who, by using a winch and unprintable verbal

exhortations, succeeded in reerecting the pole, line, flag and all.

Just as Derek's pipe-puffing subsided to its normal soothing rate, as he savoured the aroma of his favourite tobacco, a further snag occurred — the flag was up, but the line was fouled, and no amount of pipe-puffing, exhortation or whatever would free the line.

Beating a hasty retreat to deal with a rather timely breakdown, the H.L.G. Brigade departed, leaving Derek to utter one last brief verbal barrage, before he too decided that enough was enough and returned to the inner sanctum of his office.

We have it on good authority that the flag will fly until further notice is served upon those poor unfortunates

to whom Derek turns in his hours of need. Red Cross, R.S.P.C.A., Salvation Army beware!!!

Postscript to last week's comment about the club-caddying player is that he made a triumphant return to the first team at Stockport. He denies that he has ever been interested in Summer beekeeping activities, tree-felling, or similar outdoor pursuits. He is, however, anxious to gain information on certain men from North of the Border, so that it can be placed before the public for their consideration. Informants should report to the N.D. Inquiry Agency, or direct to I. Spy, Springfield Park, Wigan. All information will be checked to protect the good names of the innocent!!!

FROM THE bar staff and committee of the Supporters' Club, a very good afternoon and welcome to what promises to be a great game of football — Let us hope that now we have "got off the mark" we can go from strength to strength.

Referring to my notes in the Huddersfield Town match programme, I regret that we have had to postpone the visit of the "Big Band" which was to be on the 10th September. A booking duplication has caused a slight problem, but a new date will be finalised this week, and all tickets purchased will be accepted for the revised date.

Our ladies' darts and dominoes team opened their season with a "home fixture" last Thursday night in the club, but I am sorry to say finished on the losing side. However, knowing the people concerned, I am sure that result will soon be forgotten and progress in the league table will soon be evident.

We have a club members' challenge cricket match "married v single", to be played, I believe, at Norley Hall Cricket Club early in September. Come along and enjoy a pleasant Sunday morning.

Another event which is being looked forward to is a car rally, also scheduled for a Sunday. At present we have an entry list of fourteen cars.

The dates for both these events will be announced in the near future.

Our concert nights of late have seen first class artistes and some really good attendances. With a responsive audience the party night spirit runs right through the evening. Coming soon are:-

Supporters Club News



Saturday, 8th Sept. — Mike Watkins
Sunday, 9th Sept. — Dave & June Brookes
Saturday, 15th Sept. — Alan Arnold
Sunday, 16th Sept. — Pepper Mill

It may be well known, but the club, with all its facilities and assistance, is available, by arrangement for private functions. We have, to date, been host to different companies' social evenings, P.T.A. nights, receptions, etc., and we will be glad to discuss your requirements and arrangements at any time.

Hoping to welcome you to the club soon.

Sincerely,
 Peter Woods.



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A last word from the chairman . . .

THIS AFTERNOON I extend a warm welcome to the Chairman, Directors, Manager and team of Portsmouth F.C., to Springfield Park.

Current league leaders, unbeaten in their first three games with twelve goals for and one against, they will provide stern opposition in an attempt to maintain their unbeaten record. Let us hope that after an exciting game, we enhance our league position by gaining two points.

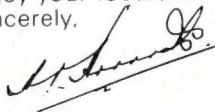
My disappointment when I received the result of the Huddersfield Town game, was compensated by the excellent win at Stockport last Saturday. After a cracking display, we deservedly collected two points.

Another disappointment has been the bad behaviour of a small section of fans who seem determined to prevent other genuine supporters from enjoying the game. We are very concerned, and although after meetings with the Police no pressure has been put on us, we have already taken steps to formulate a system of segregation whereby visiting fans will be kept apart from our own supporters. In this matter we are handicapped by the size of the ground. It will entail considerable cost to make segregation effective, nevertheless it will be done.

Cash has been made available to the Manager, but with the escalating cost of transfer fees, even for players from the lower divisions, many enquiries have not come to fruition. However, with team strengthening in mind, the Manager and I have this week been to Scotland to assess a player who could well be the man to give us that extra punch up front.

I assure you all that our aim is promotion **this season**, and, given a reasonable amount of good fortune, I think we can make it to Division Three.

Enjoy your football.
Sincerely,



Arthur Horrocks (Chairman)



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Teams

Wigan Athletic
(Royal Blue & White Stripes)

Chris Shyne	1	Peter Mellor
Kevin Smart	2	John McLaughlin
Joe Hinnigan	3	Archie Styles
Tommy Gore	4	Terry Brisley
Neil Davids	5	Steve Aizlewood
Dave Fretwell	6	Steve Davey
Frank Corrigan	7	Colin Garwood
Jeff Wright	8	Joe Laidlaw
Peter Houghton	9	Derek Showers
Micky Moore	10	Steve Bryant
Ian Purdie	11	Alan Rogers
Noel Ward	12	Jeff Hemmerman

Portsmouth
(Red)

Officials

Referee:
Mr. Frank Phipps
(Wrexham)

began refereeing in 1964. Progressed through the West Cheshire and Cheshire County Leagues to Football League list. A married man with three children, he is a civil servant and enjoys golf and football coaching. Is a qualified F.A. coach.

Linesmen:
Red Flag
Mr. J. Maxson
(Ashton-under-Lyne)
Yellow Flag
Mr. R.F. Nixon
(Stockport)

Here next...

Saturday, 15th September, 1979. Kick off 3.00 p.m.
WIGAN ATHLETIC v YORK CITY
Football League Division Four